

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 DODE-00 EPA-01 CEQ-01
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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8651
USERDA HQ WASHDC
USERDA GERMANTOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE IAEA VIENNA 1136

EO 11652: NA
TAGS:IAEA, PARM, TECH
SUBJECT: IAEA REQUEST FOR US TAKEOVER OF SAL RADIOACTIVE WASTES

USERDA WASHDC PASS SIEVERING/AIA

PASS IO/SCT; OES; NRC; ACDA

REF: 76 IAEA VIENNA 6074

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED FROM IAEA, IN FORM OF LETTER FROM
DIRECTOR GENERAL EKLUND TO AMBASSADOR STONE, A REQUEST FOR USG

TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF ACCEPTANCE BY A US LABORATORY OR OTHER
FACILITY OF ALL PLUTONIUM-CONTAMINATED WASTES FROM THE
AGENCY'S SAFEGUARDS ANALYTICAL LABORATORY (SAL) AT
SEIBERSDORF, AUSTRIA. FYI: THE SECRETARIAT HAD ONCE
BEFORE SUGGESTED US TAKEOVER OF SAL WASTE (SEE REFTEL),
BUT THE PROBLEM IS NOW APPARENTLY MORE ACUTE. ACCORDINGLY,
THE CURRENT FORMAL REQUEST FOR SAL WASTE TAKEOVER IS BEING
MADE NOT ONLY OF USG, BUT ALSO OF GOVERNMENTS OF GREAT
BRITAIN, FRG, FRANCE AND BELGIUM.

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2. TEXT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL'S LETTER FOLLOWS:

QUOTE AS YOU KNOW, OUR SAFEGUARDS ANALYTICAL LABORATORY
AT SEIBERSDORF SHOULD SOON BEGIN TO HANDLE SAMPLES
COLLECTED BY IAEA INSPECTORS. EVENTUALLY THIS WILL BE
DONE IN COOPERATION WITH A NETWORK OF OTHER ANALYTICAL

LABORATORIES IN MEMBER STATES.

QUOTE WE HAVE RUN INTO CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES
IN DEALING WITH THE WASTE FROM THE LABORATORY WHICH WILL
CONTAIN GRAM QUANTITIES OF PLUTONIUM. YOU WILL SEE FROM
THE ATTACHED NOTE THAT THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM
PLUTONIUM CONTENT OF ALL SAMPLES COMING TO SAL IN 1978
WOULD BE 400 GRAMS; THE ACTUAL AMOUNT IS LIKELY TO BE
MUCH LESS. THE MAXIMUM WOULD NOT GREATLY EXCEED 400
GRAMS AS FAR AS WE CAN FORESEE INTO THE 1980'S.

QUOTE AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE SAL LABORATORY IS PART OF A
MORE GENERAL-PURPOSE IAEA LABORATORY WHICH IN TURN IS
LOCATED IN THE AUSTRIAN REACTOR CENTRE. THE AUSTRIAN
AUTHORITIES HAVE TOLD US THAT WHILE THEY CAN HANDLE THE
WASTE CLASSIFIED AS CLASS 4 IN THE ATTACHED NOTE, THEY
HAVE NO FACILITIES FOR DEALING WITH THE FIRST THREE
CLASSES AND THEY HAVE ASKED US TO CONTACT OTHER
GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE DISPOSAL OF THESE THREE
CLASSES. WE ARE, THEREFORE, CONTACTING A FEW
LABORATORIES AND GOVERNMENTS WHICH WE BELIEVE MAY BE ABLE
TO ASSIST.

QUOTE MY PURPOSE IN WRITING TO YOU IS TO FIND OUT
WHETHER A LABORATORY OR OTHER FACILITY IN THE UNITED
STATES WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT FROM THE IAEA SAL
LABORATORY ALL WASTE IN THE FIRST THREE CLASSES FOR
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A GIVEN PERIOD OF TIME, E.G. A TEN-YEAR CONTRACT, AND
IF SO, UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS.

QUOTE I SHOULD NOTE THAT WE ARE ADDRESSING SOLELY THE
QUESTION OF PLUTONIUM-CONTAMINATED WASTES, WHICH MAY
CONTAIN SOME URANIUM. APART FROM THAT, SOME PLUTONIUM-
CONTAMINATED WASTE WILL ALSO BE
GENERATED BY SAL WHICH COULD BE TAKEN OVER BY AUSTRIAN
AUTHORITIES FOR ULTIMATE DISPOSAL. SHOULD THERE BE AN
INTEREST ON THE PART OF A NUCLEAR FACILITY IN THE
UNITED STATES TO ACCEPT THIS TYPE OF WASTE AS WELL,
HOWEVER, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS
POSSIBILITY AS WELL. END QUOTE.

ATTACHMENT TO DG'S LETTER IS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE SAL PLUTONIUM SCRAP AND WASTE.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE MAXIMUM PLUTONIUM CONTENT

OF ALL SAFEGUARDED SAMPLES TO BE ANALYZED IN THE AGENCY'S
SAFEGUARDS ANALYTICAL LABORATORY (SAL) IN CALENDAR YEAR
1978 IN (SIC) 400 GRAMS. THIS AMOUNT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN

FOUR CLASSES: CLASS ESTIMATED GRAMS PU

1	CA 80
2	CA 240
3	CA 60
4	CA 20

QUOTE OUR MEANING OF THE CLASSIFICATIONS IS AS FOLLOWS/

CLASS 1- UNUSED PORTIONS OF SAMPLES IN AN AS-RECEIVED
FORM. THIS MATERIAL HAS MANY USES, IS
EASILY RE-USEABLE AND IS EASILY RE-CYCLED.

CLASS 2- DISSOLVED CLASS 1 MATERIAL. READILY AVAILABLE
FOR RE-CYCLING.

CLASS 3- CLASS 2 MATERIAL WHICH HAS BEEN DILUTED BY
CHEMICALS WHICH ARE ADDED TO FACILITATE THE
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CHEMICAL ANALYSIS. THIS MATERIAL WOULD REQUIRE
EXTENSIVE CHEMICAL TREATMENT BEFORE IT CAN BE
RE-CYCLED.

CLASS 4- DILUTE SOLUTIONS CONTAINING SMALL AMOUNTS OF
PLUTONIUM FROM RINSING OF EQUIPMENT; VARIOUS
OTHER SOLID HETEROGENOUS MATERIALS REMOVED
FROM GLOVE BOXES AND THE VENTILATED SYSTEM.

END QUOTE.

3. SECRETARIAT'S RENEWED INTEREST IN SAL WASTE
DISPOSAL DERIVES FROM ANTICIPATED GOA LIMITS ON THE
AMOUNT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL ALLOWED AT SAL. THE
AGENCY HAS APPLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRIA FOR A
CLASS A OPERATING LICENSE FOR SAL (WITHOUT WHICH THE
LABORATORY IS NOT PERMITTED TO POSSESS PLUTONIUM) WHICH,
WHEN GRANTED, IS EXPECTED TO LIMIT THE QUANTITY OF
SPECIAL FISSIONABLE MATERIAL IN THE LABORATORY'S
POSSESSION AT ANY ONE TIME TO SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF GRAMS.
SECRETARIAT IS EAGER TO OBTAIN THE LICENSE IN ORDER TO
BE ABLE TO ANALYZE PLUTONIUM SAMPLES AND BELIEVES THAT
ISUANCE OF THE LICENSE WOULD BE FACILITATED IF THE
AGENCY COULD DEMONSTRATE THAT IT HAD MADE SATISFACTORY
ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISPOSING OF ITS RADIOACTIVE WASTE,
PREFERABLY OUTSIDE OF AUSTRIA.

4. MISION COMMENTS FOLLOW SEPTEL ON HOW US ACCEPTANCE
OF SAL RADIOACTIVE WASTE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTION
OF PROBLEMS OF SAMPLES FROM UNIFIED INVENTORIES FROM NPT
STATES. STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RADIOACTIVE WASTES DISPOSAL, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Litigation Codes:
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